

Amendments to the Specification:

Page 5, lines 1-10, replace the paragraph with the following:

A speed reducing gear train is now formed in the slitting saw 10. A motor which may be electric, pneumatic or hydraulic is adapted to be connected to rotate the first bevel gear 36 which engages the teeth of the second bevel gear 50 rotating the second bevel gear. Since the second bevel gear 50 is operatively keyed to the drive shaft 20 the bevel gears transfer rotation to the drive shaft 20. Rotation of the drive shaft 20 results in rotation of the first helical gear 80 which is engaged with the second helical gear 90 causing rotation of the idler shaft 22. The third helical gear 92 is also operatively keyed to the idler shaft 22 such that the rotation of the idler shaft 22 causes rotation of the third helical drive gear 92. Because the third helical gear 92 meshes with the fourth helical gear 102, rotation of the idler shaft is transferred to the cutter shaft 26. Rotation of the cutter shaft 26 results in rotation of the cutting blade 56.